

Reply to: 3410

Date: August 23, 1993

Subject: 1993 GYPSY MOTH DEFOLIATION MONONGAHELA NF

To: FOREST SUPERVISOR, MONONGAHELA NF


Results of the aerial sketchmapping survey made by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture during early July 1993 were recently made available to us. We have decided to use this information as the basis for our gypsy moth defoliation survey on your forest.

During 1993, gypsy moth caterpillars noticeably defoliated a total of 5,362 acres of oak forests within the Monongahela NF boundary, all on the Potomac RD. (Refer to Table 1 attached). This defoliation has been grouped into areas of light, medium and heavy intensity classes on the enclosed 7.5 minute topographic maps. Gary Bustamente had requested that this information be provided in this detail during our gypsy moth damage survey planning for 1993.

The 1993 defoliation total of 5,362 is lower than the 1992 defoliation of 6,499 acres, undoubtedly because the gypsy moth suppression project during last May reduced potentially damaging populations in many of the spray blocks. The effectiveness of the Bt and Gypchek spraying at reducing noticeable defoliation is being evaluated for each spray block as part of our Treatment Monitoring Data Base (TMDB). The results of the TMDB work will be presented to you after post-spray gypsy moth egg mass surveys have been completed in November 1993.

60% Of the total 1993 defoliation, 2,133 acres (40%) occurred on NFS lands with the remainder (91%) on State and Private lands. Because nearly all the defoliation on NFS lands was light to medium, the effects on the tree resource from the infestation were considered to be minimal.

The location and intensity of the 1993 defoliation will form the basis for deciding where the gypsy moth egg mass surveys should be done in September and October. FHP Staff entomologists and technicians with assistance from your staff will be conducting the gypsy moth egg mass surveys as part of the Biological Evaluation of gypsy moth populations to determine current outbreak densities and trends, and forest damage to expect on the Monongahela NF in 1994. Results of the Biological Evaluation will be available in early November for the Monongahela NF to use in any gypsy moth suppression planning for a project next May.


Peter A. Rush
Field Representative, FHP

Enclosures cc: District Ranger, Potomac RD
G. Hertel, AO, R. McKinney, R-9, J. Hacker, WVAGR, w/o enclosures

Table 1. 1993 Gypsy Moth Defoliation by Aerial Sketchmapping Survey,
Acres by Defoliation Class by Ownership within NFS Proclamation Boundary,
Potomac RD, Monangahela NF

7.5 MINUTE QUAD NAME	DEFOLIATION CLASS	-----OWNERSHIP-----		
		NFS	NON-NFS	TOTAL
Franklin	Light	4	239	243
	Medium	98	158	256
	Heavy	0	0	0
	Subtotal	102	397	499 A
Petersburg West	Light	55	1,553	1,608
	Medium	17	506	523
	Heavy	19	28	47
	Subtotal	91	2,087	2,178
Onego	Light	115	175	290
	Medium	0	40	40
	Heavy	0	16	16
	Subtotal	115	231	346
Upper Tract	Light	150	0	150
	Medium	1,463	378	1,841
	Heavy	49	123	172
	Subtotal	1,662	501	2,163
Mozer	Light	40	0	40
	Medium	56	0	56
	Heavy	0	0	0
	Subtotal	96	0	96
Hopeville	Light	67	13	80
	Medium	0	0	0
	Heavy	0	0	0
	Subtotal	67	13	80
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GRAND TOTALS		2,133 ACRES	3,229 ACRES	5,362 ACRES